

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2012
MEADOWEDGE
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Acting Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Jim Barr	Superintendent
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

PUBLIC PORTION

There were not any members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2012

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Trustee Borden welcomed Terry Pearsall to the Board of Trustees. He represents the office of Presiding Officer Lindsay.

Trustee Borden said he is very pleased with the appointment of Greg Dawson as Commissioner of the Parks Department. We have worked with him for some time and it will be a very productive and comfortable relationship.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Nick Gibbons reported on the 10 campsites at Meschutt County Park. Meschutt is located in Hampton Bays on the east side of the Shinnecock Canal. Approximately 10 years ago a campground was established in the far western end of the parking lot. There were 10 campsites for RV self-contained units. Those 10 campsites displaced approximately 60 to 80 parking stalls. Those 10 campsites were put on the reservation system and the response has been tremendous. As a result, there was always a need for an improved parking lot at Meschutt. Through capital program funds, the parking lot improvements are now 80% complete. We are waiting for final pavement during the fair weather. DPW has installed a median of crushed stone running down the center of the parking lot. It's corralled by a split rail fence with walkways for pedestrian traffic. DPW wanted a vegetated swale to handle all the water, but Parks felt that wasn't practical for the public. The unforeseen result of that was we lost our entire campground area. Because of the swale, there's not enough room for the RV's. Years ago, Trustee Sickles proposed taking those campsites out of the parking lot, putting the parking stalls back and lining up the camping units along the Shinnecock Canal. We're now talking about lining them up along the vegetated area on the west side of the canal. Part of the design of the new parking lot has an apron for the establishment of a driveway. The rigs can come in as usual, go down to the west, go through a curb cut in the parking lot and line up along the canal. The exit road would hook up with the existing marina road which is already in place. We feel we can fit 10 camping units, perhaps more, into that area. We need the Trustees approval and we will also bring it before the Council on Environmental Quality. We will have to get a N.Y.S.D.E.C. tidal wetlands permit because it's within 300 ft. of apparent knee high water. That shouldn't present a problem, but it will take some time and we need to move fast because the campsites are booked for the summer.

A motion to approve the establishment of a campground along the Shinnecock Canal at Meschutt County Park, as presented by Nick Gibbons, was made by Trustee Sickles and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Trustee Borden announced the elections of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

A motion to approve the nomination of Trustee Miles Borden as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, for a period of two years starting immediately, was made Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee White. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

A motion to approve the nomination of Trustee Dawn Hopkins as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, for a period of two years starting immediately, was made Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Sickles. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Chairman Borden inquired about the status of Third House. Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that we are moving forward with renovating the floors and we are working with DPW to find a contractor. We will be scheduling a meeting with DPW to discuss the priority list of the work that needs to be done at Third House.

Trustee White said that the CCOM (Concerned Citizens of Montauk) and the Third House Nature Group would like to have use of the building.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported that Legislator Schneiderman discussed the Lindley House and the idea of putting CCOM or the Nature Group in the house, which would result in the benefit of having someone living in it onsite. He will be reaching out to the organizations to see if there is any interest.

Trustee White reported that Legislator Schneiderman reached out to him regarding Montauk Historical Society occupying the Lindley House. Trustee White said he brought it before the Montauk Historical Board of Directors and while they would be interested, they aren't in a position to handle it now. Trustee White said the house needs to be occupied so everything can continue to work properly (i.e. generator).

Deputy Commissioner Bellone said she is waiting to hear back from Legislator Schneiderman.

Chairman Borden inquired about the Trustee vacancy for the Town of Southold. He asked if Southold has been informed. Trustee Pearsall reported he hasn't heard from Southold. Acting Commissioner Dawson said he will be sending in his Trustee resignation letter to Supervisor Croci, Town of Islip. Deputy Commissioner Bellone said there is also a request for a new Trustee to represent the Town of Babylon.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Gooding congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair.

Trustee White reported that CCOM (Concerned Citizens of Montauk, a grass roots organization) wants to reactivate the burn program at Theodore Roosevelt County Park that was started by the Nature Conservancy many years ago. They are looking for a Letter of Intent from the County to continue this program so they can take this letter to someone who will be funding this effort. It will be necessary to have a paid burn boss. They are not asking for any money from the County. They just want permission to finish the burn under guidelines set forth by D.E.C. It is important for them to get this letter in a timely fashion so they can get the grant money.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported she will speak with the County Attorney on this issue. The Parks Department conceptually agrees, but we must talk with the County Attorney before we can write this letter.

Richard Martin gave an update on three large restoration projects. The renovation/restoration of Blydenburgh Mill is coming to completion. We rebuilt the piers, replaced the timber framing and the building is now secure. The Coindre Hall Boathouse project is being shut down. We found more structural problems with the building that the current contract could cover so DPW decided to shut the project down until they get additional engineering studies on the building. We have taken down the chimneys that were in danger of collapsing; we tightened up the roof and put in additional structural supports inside the building. Right down there is a chain link fence around the building and we have to see, as funding allows, how we can continue this restoration.

Deputy Commissioner reported that the Town of Huntington gave the County \$600,000 toward the restoration in order to find a permanent home for Sagamore Rowing. We have an agreement with the Town that says in exchange for their \$600,000, they not only got space for Sagamore Rowing, but they also got program space in the main building. Because of this unforeseen construction issue and delays in the project, we, accompanied by DPW, the County Attorney and other agencies, are meeting with the Town in the beginning of March to give an update on the entire project. The Town may request their \$600,000 back. The money is sitting in escrow.

Richard Martin reported that the third project is the Homan Gerard House in Yaphank which we have been eager to start the past four years. DPW has assigned a different architect to the project and we are hoping this project moves forward because the capital funds for this project will sunset this year.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone welcomed Acting Commissioner Greg Dawson. We are excited to have him on board.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th at Meadowedge in West Sayville, New York.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.